भारत में अल्पसंख्यक श्रेणी के अधीन भाषायी और धार्मिक समुदाय

753. **डा० महेश चन्द्र शर्मा:** क्या विधि और न्याय मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) भारत में उन भाषायी और धार्मिक समुदायों के नाम क्या है जोकि भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 29 और 30 के अनुसार अल्पसंख्यक श्रेणी के अन्तर्गत आते हैं;

(ख) भाषायी और धार्मिक अल्पसंख्यकों की पृथक रूप से कुल जनसंख्या कितनी-कितनी है; और

(ग) क्या भारत में वैधानिक रूप से मान्यता प्राप्त भाषायी या धार्मिक बहुसंख्यक श्रेणी भी है; यदि हां, तो उसकी कुल जनसंख्या कितनी है?

विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (श्री रमाकान्त डी० खलप): (क) संविधान में भाषायी अल्पसंख्यक वर्गों को विनिर्दिष्ट नहीं किया गया है। राज्य/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र के स्तर पर भाषायी अल्पसंख्यक वर्ग वे हैं जिनकी बोली जाने वाली भाषा, राज्य/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र की प्रमुख भाषा से भिन्न है। यह आवश्यक नहीं है कि भाषायी अल्पसंख्यक वर्ग की भाषाएं, संविधान की आठवी अनुसूची में विनिर्दिष्ट भाषाएं होनी चाहिए।

निम्नलिखित समुदायों को, राष्ट्रीय अल्पसंख्यक आयोग अधिनियम, 1992 के प्रयोजनों के लिए धार्मिक अल्संख्यक वर्ग के रूप में मान्यता दी गई है:—

1. मुसलमान
2. ईसाई
3. सिख
4. बौद्ध
5. पारसी

(ख) 1991 की जनगणना के अनुसार धार्मिक अल्पसंख्य वर्ग की कुल जनसंख्या निम्नवत है—

मुसलमान 101,596,057
ईसाई 019,640,284
सिख 016,250,744
बौद्ध 006,387,500
पारसी 000,076,382

1981 की जनगणना के अनुसार भाषायी अल्पसंख्यक वर्ग की कुल जनसंख्या 1,24,334, 054 है।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

Amendments in the Anti defection Act

754. SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since finalised amendments in the Anti Defection Act with a view to plug the loopholes which has made mockery of the law in view of its frequent breach by several M.Ps and M.L.As;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for delay;

(c) by when the proposed amendments are likely to be brought forward; and

(d) what is the status of 12 M.L.As who recently defected from, B.S.P. in terms of the present Anti Defection Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c) The Government will bring forward a Bill for making amendments to Anti-Defection Law as soon as consensus is reached amongst political parties on changes to be made in the Anti-Defection Law.

(d) A decision in the matter is requi ed to be taken by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh under Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Proposal to prevent entry of criminals in politics

755. SHRI RAJUBHAI PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken or propose to take any steps to prevent entry of criminals in politics and criminalisation of politics in the light of the marathon debates on the subject in

the two Houses of Parliament on the eve of 50th Anniversary of Indian Democracy in August this year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) Certain proposals for amending section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 have been formulated. The Election Commission have also sent some proposals in this regard. The Government will bring forward a Bill as soon as consensus is reached amongst political parties on changes to be made in electoral laws to prevent entry of criminals in politics.

Electoral Reforms

756. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:
SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has made some recommendactions to Government on Electoral Reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government to each of these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) A statement containing the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below).

(c) The proposals of the Election Commission pertaining to issue of photo identity cards and reduction in campaign period to fourteen days have since been implemented. Moreover, against the proposals of the Election Commission not to allow any candidate to contest for election from more than one constituency, it has been provided that no candidate would contest from more than two constituencies of the same class. Government does not favour giving powers to the Election Commission either to make laws or to take disciplinary action against Government Servants. No final decision has been taken with regard to other proposals.

Statement

The Important proposals made by the Election Commission regarding Electoral Reforms

1. Fixed composition of Election Commission consisting of Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.
2. Same safeguards to the Election Commissioners in the matter of their tenure of office, as are available to the Chief Election Commissioner under the Constitution.
3. Amendment to Section 77 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 so as to provide that the ceiling of election expenses fixed under the law is all inclusive (including the expenses incurred by the political party), and to raise the limit of such expenditure to reasonable level.
4. Amendment of Section 159 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 enabling the deployment of personnel of Public Sector Undertakings and Government aided bodies, for election duty.
5. The Election Commission should have an independent secretariat and the expenditure on the Commission should be "charged" and not "voted".
6. Photo identity cards should be issued to all electors.
7. The District Electoral Officer concerned should be statutorily required to be consulted and empowered to have a say in the police arrangement for elections.
8. The political bigwigs who harbour proclaimed abscondors and are seen openly in their company, should be proceeded against. The power to